(a) the expected time of commercial availability of coal bed methane for industrial use from Raniganj and Jharia blocks by ONGC;

(b) the present status of exploration; and

(c) the quantum of investment made in these blocks so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Commercial production in the Raniganj Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block, which is currently at the exploration stage will depend on the results of exploration and appraisal, which are expected to be completed by 2011.

In Jharia block, which is also in the exploration stage, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) are planning to produce CBM from a part of the block by 2007.

(b) In Raniganj block, ONGC have drilled seven bore holes and are expected to drill eight more bore holes and one exploratory well during the exploration phase.

In Jharia block, ONGC have already drilled nine bore holes and four exploratory wells. The drilling of two bore holes is at present in progress. Three more bore holes and two exploratory wells have been planned.

(c) In Jharia block, ONGC have as of 31.3.05 made an investment of Rs. 1.71 crores following the award of block under the CBM contract regime. Taking into account the pre-contract expenditure made by ONGC, the cumulative investment has been Rs. 54.03 crores as on 31.3.2005. In Raniganj block, ONGC had invested Rs. 0.29 crores until 31.3.2005. Taking into account the pre-contract expenditure made by ONGC, the cumulative investment in this block has been Rs. 36.11 crores as on 31.3.2005.

Plant level Advisory Committee

†2903. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plant level Advisory Committee in all undertakings has been constituted for the development of those subsidiary industries

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of public sector undertakings under Central Government which are functioning in Chhattisgarh State;

(b) the dates on which the meetings of plant level Advisory Committee of Public Sector IBP Company Limited, were held after the formation of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) the number of subsidiary industries of I.B.P Company Limited which have been set up and the names out of them given purchase-orders after the formation of Chhattisgarh State alongwith year-wise details of amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Major fire accidents

†2904.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and gas producing industry is considered as a risky industry throughout the world;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of mishaps taken place in the country from the year 2003 till the end of July, 2005 and the estimated extent of loss of lives and property as a result thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that special measures are needed to be taken for the safety in view of risks involved therein; and

(e) if so, the estimated annual amount likely to be spent on such measures?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and gas producing industry is considered as hazardous industry throughout the world owing to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.